Paky Arch, who ...
concert on Dec. 1 at the State Department auditorium was being introduced around.

Star - Nov. 28-66

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MERRIMAN SMITH, the senior White House newsman who says "Thank you, Mr. President" at the end of every presidential press conference, was quietly married to Gailey Johnson a few weeks ago. The pretty blonde bride, whose first marriage ended in divorce a few years ago and who took back her maiden name, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Johnson of Chicago and Palm Springs, Calif. She is much traveled, has a collection of good art, worked in the Scranton campaign in 1964 and is now working out a plan for setting up a supply line for home handicrafts. She has been living in a charming house in Alexandria the past year.

Smitty was divorced from his first wife in mid-October a few days before he and Gailey were wed, but his honeymoon was spent covering the President for UPI on his Asia trip. Gailey spent that time in Elizabeth City, N.C., with his grandchildren and the widow of his son, Bert Smith, who was killed in Viet Nam. It was Smitty's remarkably moving letter to the President following the death of his son that the President read in a speech on Viet Nam in New York last February.

Incidentally, Smitty's recent article supporting the Warren Commission's Report on the assassination of President Kennedy has brought him some vitriolic response, he said.

His "eyewitness" account should have eliminated a lot of doubts, but he said, "I have never been attacked so viciously as I have been since writing this."

He intimated quite truthfully in the article that there was great economic advantage to publishing doubtful accounts, and as a result, he said, "Some woman called me yesterday and said she wants me brought to trial."